

Oregon

Water Conditions Report

September 24, 2018



Temperatures over the [past two weeks](#) were much cooler than normal. The exceptions were eastern regions of the state where temperatures were about normal for this time of year. For the [month of August](#), temperatures were well above normal and in some areas as high as three degrees warmer than normal.

Oregon statewide water year precipitation at NRCS SNOTEL sites continues to hover at 85 percent of normal. The highest amounts of water year precipitation are currently in the Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Willow basins with 100 percent. The lowest values are in the Rogue/Umpqua basins at 75 percent of normal for the water year.

Precipitation over the [past two weeks](#) has been just below normal for all but the northwest corner of the state. Precipitation for the [month of August](#) was well below normal, in some areas as low as 5 percent of normal.

Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an even probability of normal temperatures across Oregon. The precipitation outlook is for above-normal precipitation across all but the northwest corner of the state, where the probability is normal. The most recent [three month outlook](#) indicates increased chances of above-normal temperatures statewide. The precipitation outlook for the same period calls for an increased probability of below-normal precipitation. The next long-term outlook will be issued on October 18, 2018.

[ENSO](#)-Neutral conditions are expected to transition this fall. There are increasing chances (50-55 percent) of onset of El Niño conditions during this fall and winter. For more insight, refer to the September 13, 2018 [diagnostic discussion](#) issued by the Climate Prediction Center. For the latest discussion on the fall-winter outlook, refer to the latest [ENSO blog](#) on the climate.gov website. The Climate Prediction Center will continue to provide updates on a regular basis. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for October 11, 2018.

Statewide streamflows for August were 53 percent of normal. This is up from 47 percent seen for the month of July. Regionally for August, streamflow conditions were about 52 percent east of the Cascades and 57 percent to the west. More recent conditions indicate that flows are ranging from 30 to 60 percent in the North and South Coast basins to a little over 70 percent in the Hood and Klamath.

[USACE Reservoirs: Rogue:](#) Lost Creek outflow continues to be maintained at about 1,200 cfs. Currently the project is 43 percent full and 35 percent below rule curve. Inflows are holding steady at around 950 cfs. Applegate inflows are at about 30 cfs with outflows at approximately 250 cfs. Currently the project is 25 percent full and 46 percent below rule curve.

[Willow Creek:](#) Willow Creek inflow is around 8 cfs and outflow is about 3 cfs. The project is currently 13 percent full and 87 percent below rule curve.

[Willamette](#): The Willamette system continues to draft while augmenting mainstem flows. The project is currently 25 percent full and 51 percent below rule curve. The flow at Albany is about 4,500 cfs and at Salem is about 7,600 cfs.

[USBR Reservoirs](#): In north central Oregon, [McKay Reservoir](#) is at 31 percent of capacity, just about normal for this time of year. In the Willamette, [Scoggins Reservoir](#) remains very close to its fill curve and is currently 40 percent full. [Central Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 2 (Wickiup) and 70 (Crescent Lake) percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs (not considering Thief Valley) are all below 35 percent now with Warm Springs at 0 and Owyhee at 32 percent of capacity. [Rogue Basin](#) reservoirs are between 4 and 36 percent of capacity. [Upper Klamath Lake](#) is currently at 27 percent of capacity.

The most recent update to the [US Drought Monitor](#) indicates continued expansion of drought conditions across the state. Indicators now point toward D3 (Extreme Drought) in almost 32 percent of the state, an increase of 10 percent from last week. The September 20, 2018 report also shows that 88 percent of the state is in D2 (Severe Drought), 98 percent is listed as in D1 (Moderate Drought) and 100 percent of the state is listed as D0 (Abnormally Dry).

As of September 19, thirty-one Oregon counties are now under drought [designation](#) by the US Department of Agriculture. Nine counties are now under state-declared drought status. Refer to the Oregon Water Resources Department [web page](#) for the latest information.

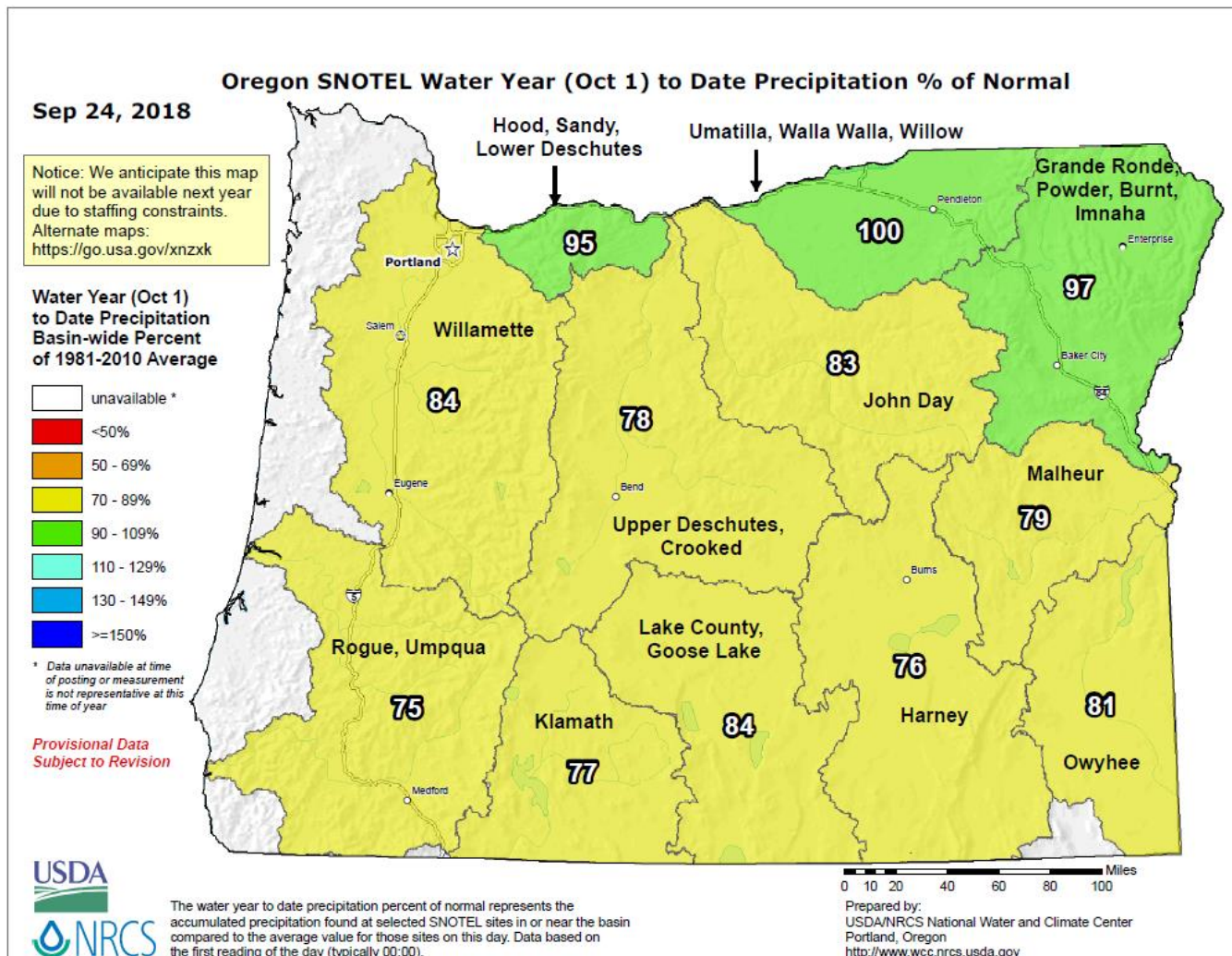
As fall began this weekend, milder temperatures and higher humidity have helped to ease the potential for wildfires. Wildland fire potential [outlooks](#) will continue to be posted until the end of the season. The Oregon Department of Forestry's [wildfire blog](#) continues to post the latest up-to-date conditions. More information can also be accessed through the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center [website](#). Another recommended resource is the Oregon Office of Emergency Management's [RAPTOR](#) incident mapping program which includes current situational information, such as wildfire perimeters, thermal satellite, fire evacuation boundaries, and air quality info.

Data & Products:

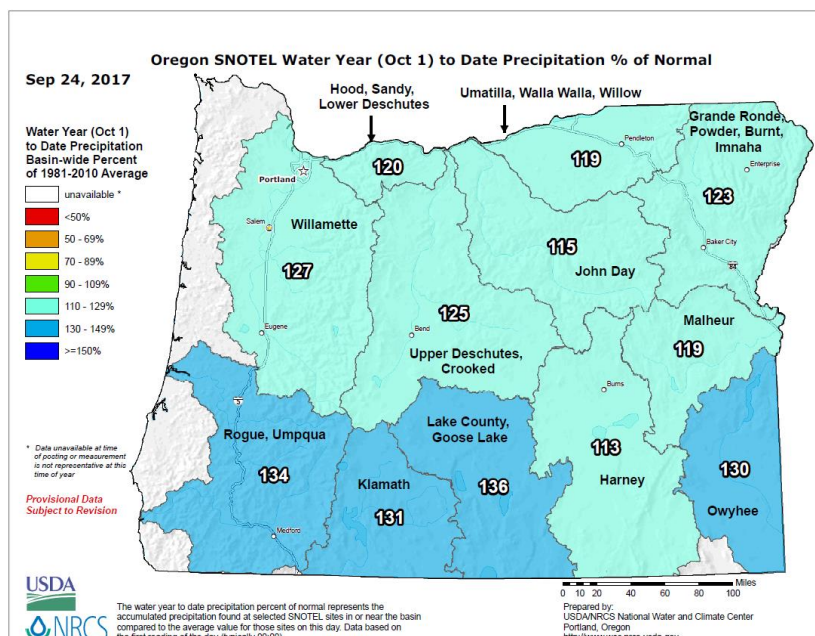
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Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal



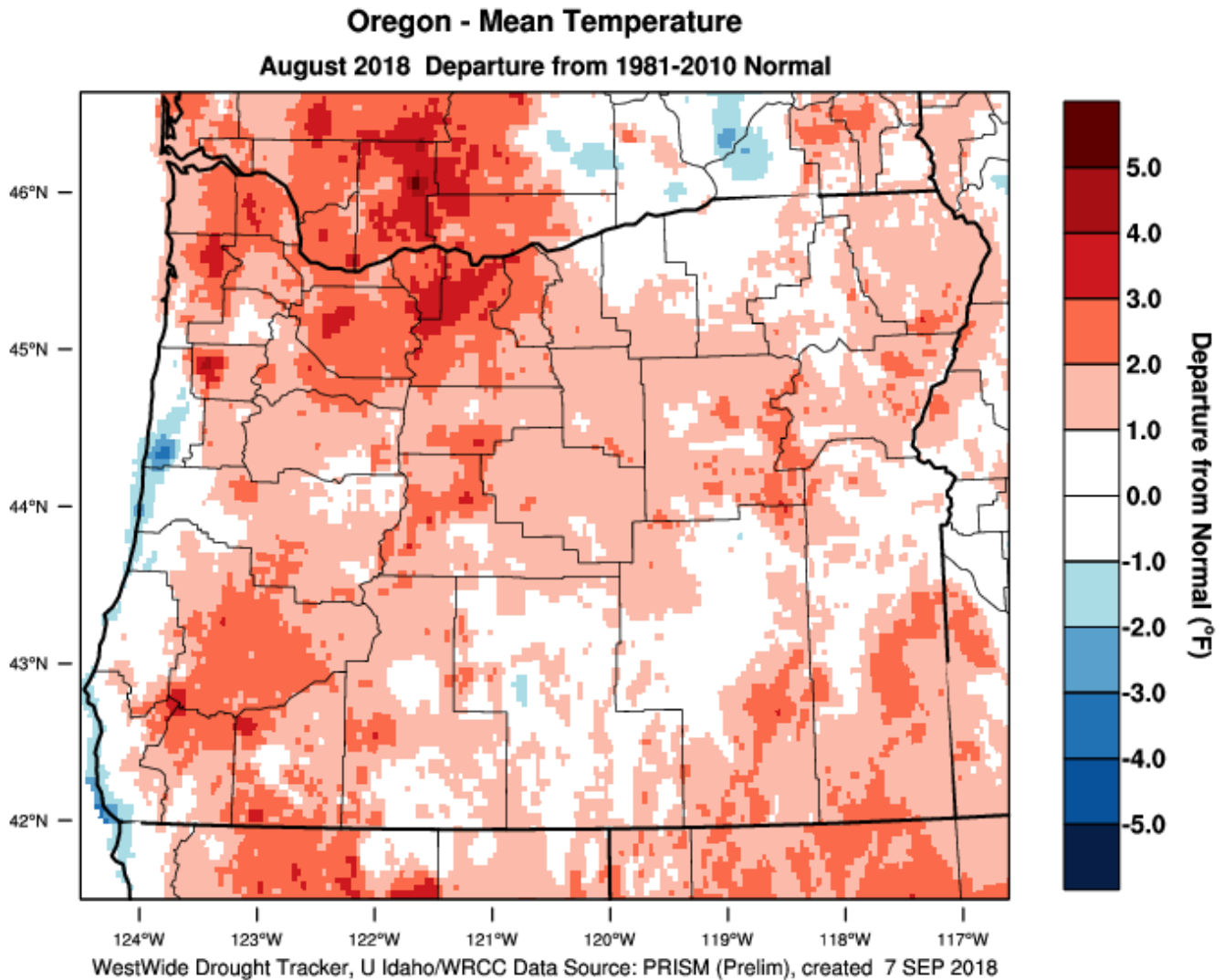
Compared to this time last year -



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

Website: <https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?region=or>

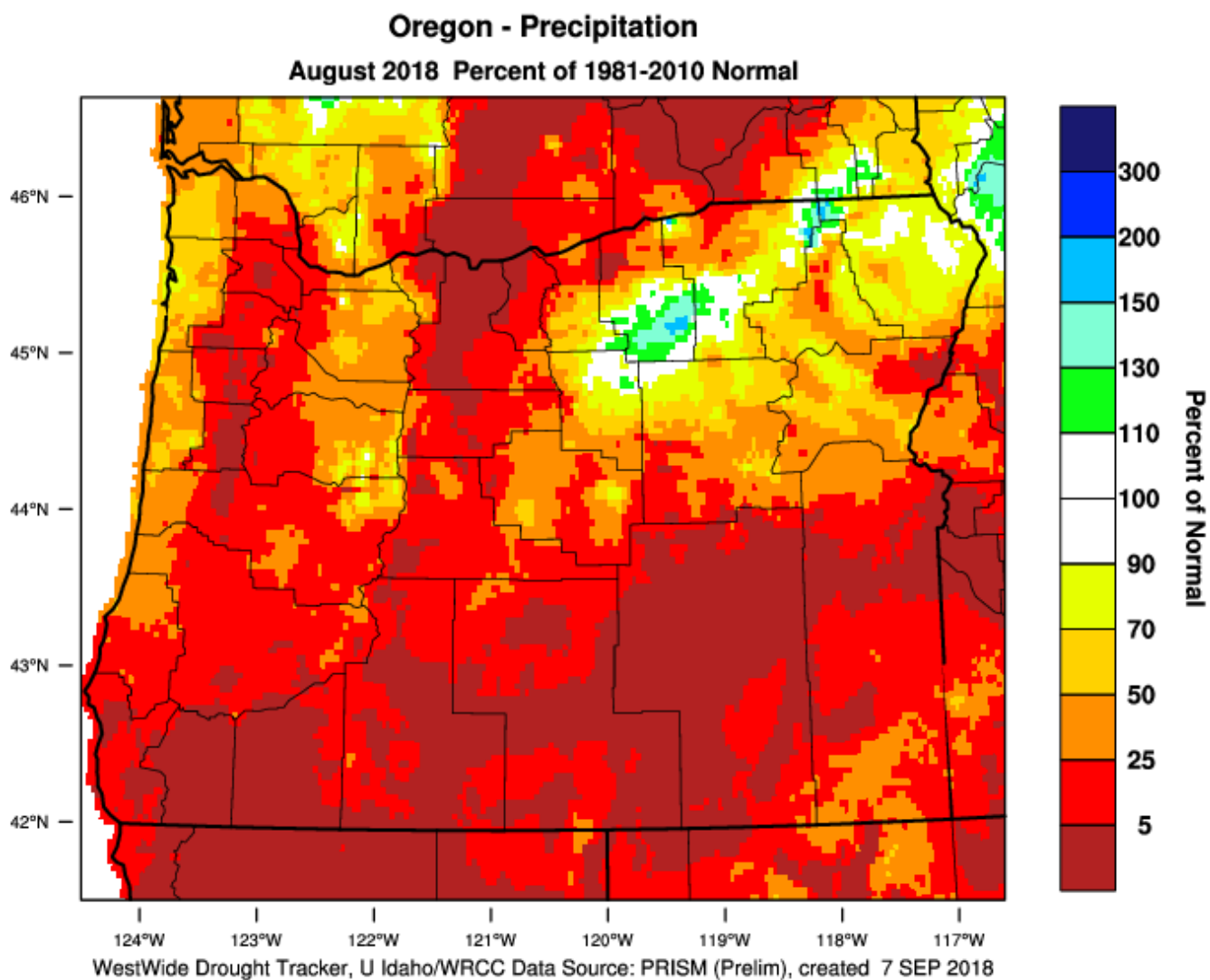
PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=pon1>

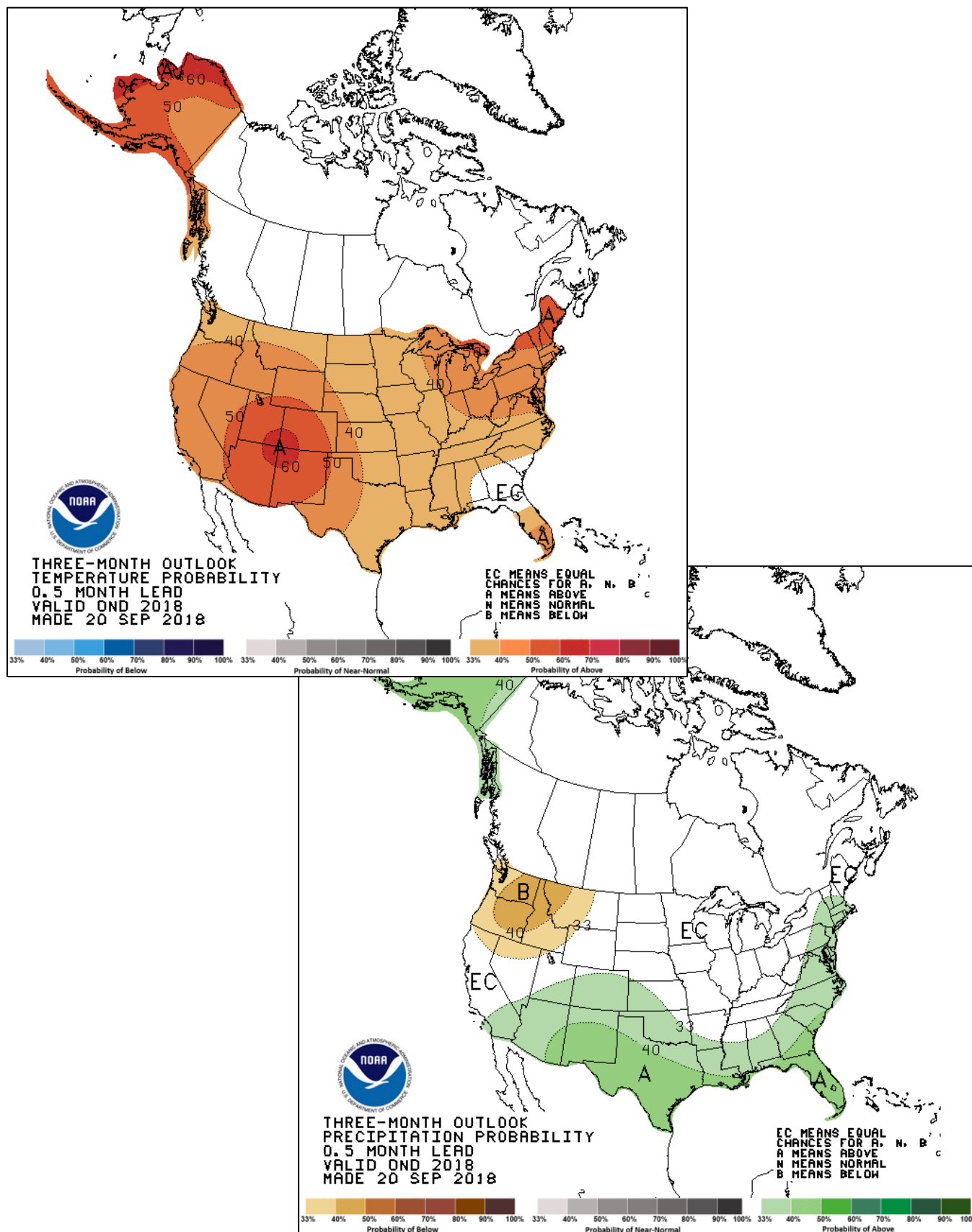
PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

October through December

Website: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1

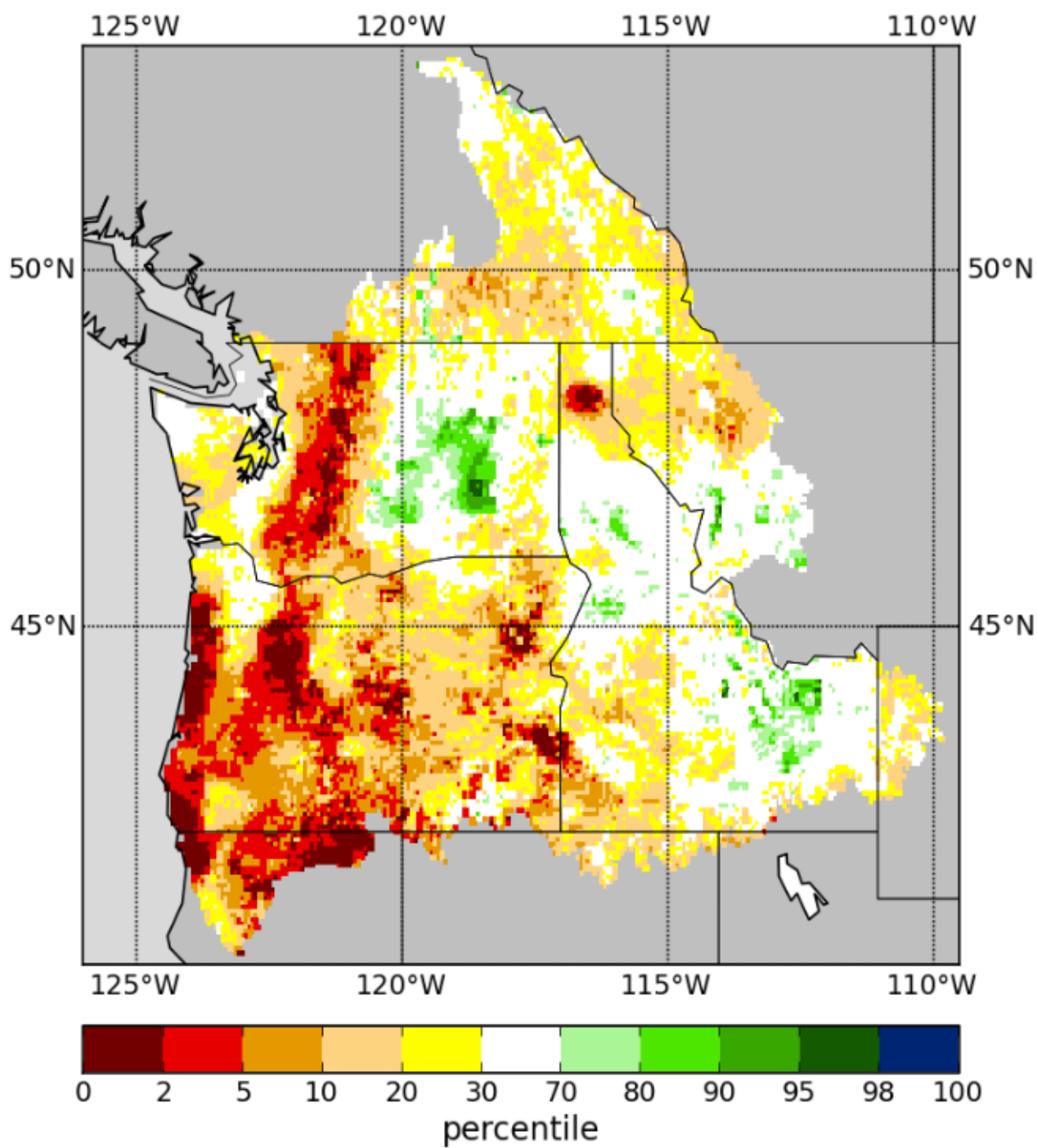


Soil Moisture - Percentile

Website: http://www.hydro.ucla.edu/SurfaceWaterGroup/forecast/monitor_pnw/index.shtml

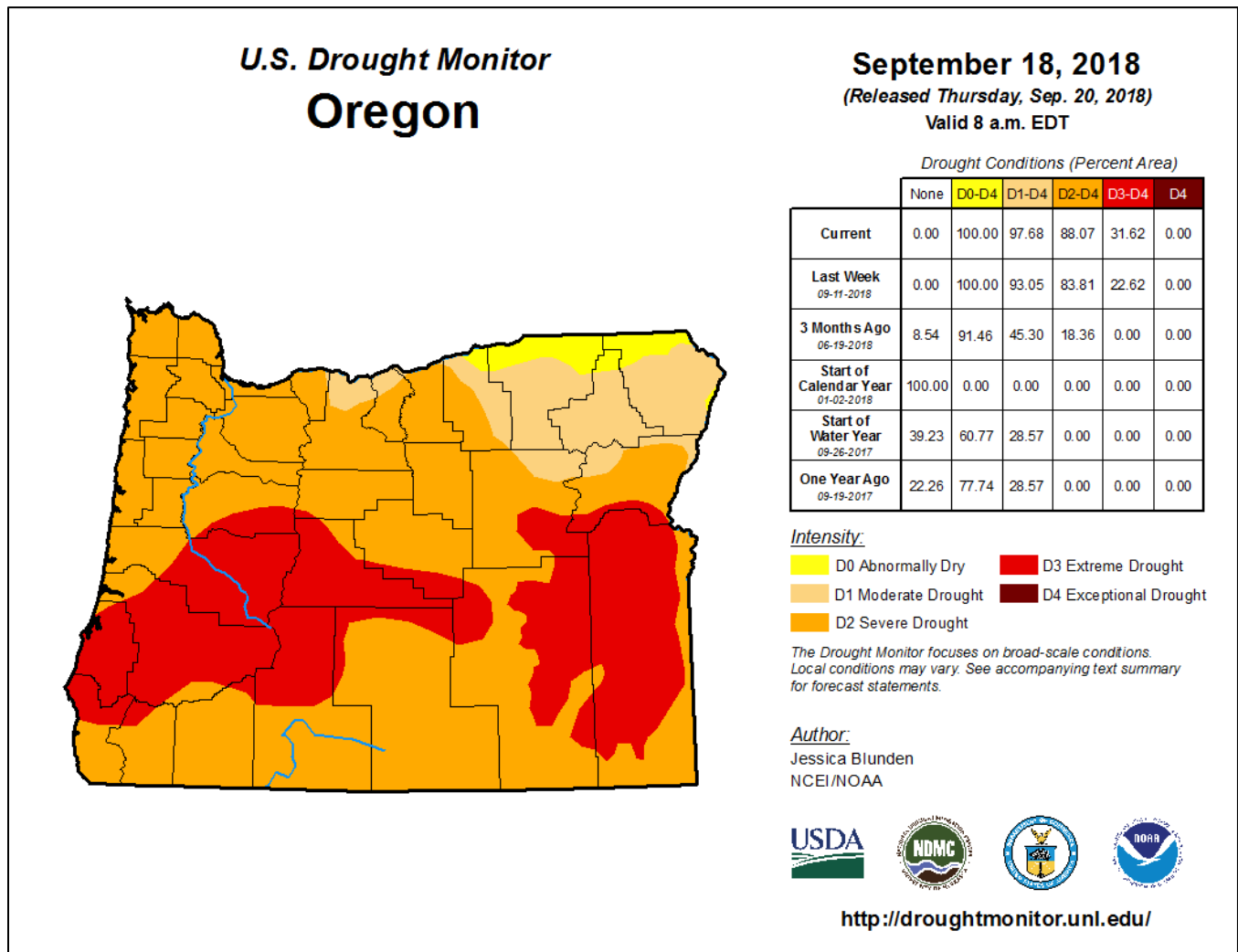
Total Moisture Percentile

2018--09--22

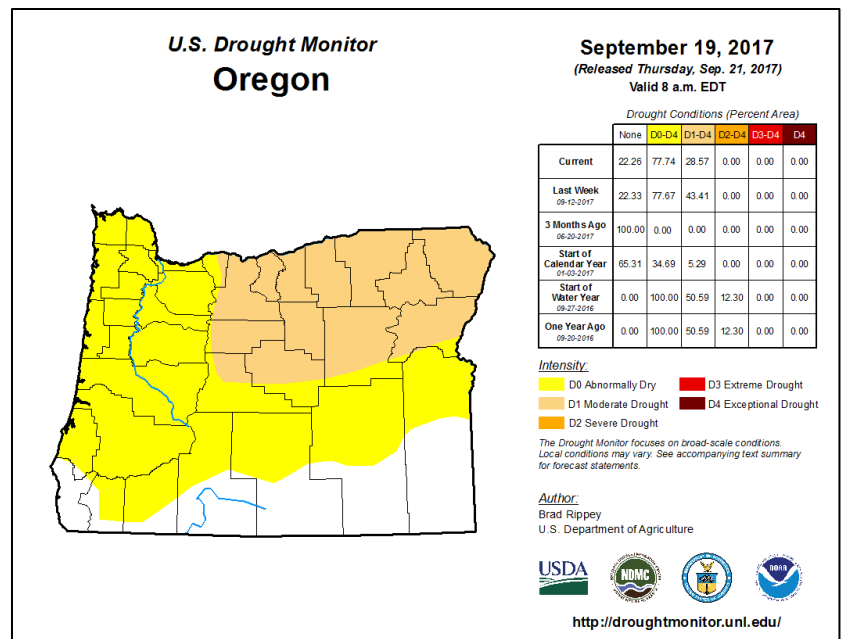


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

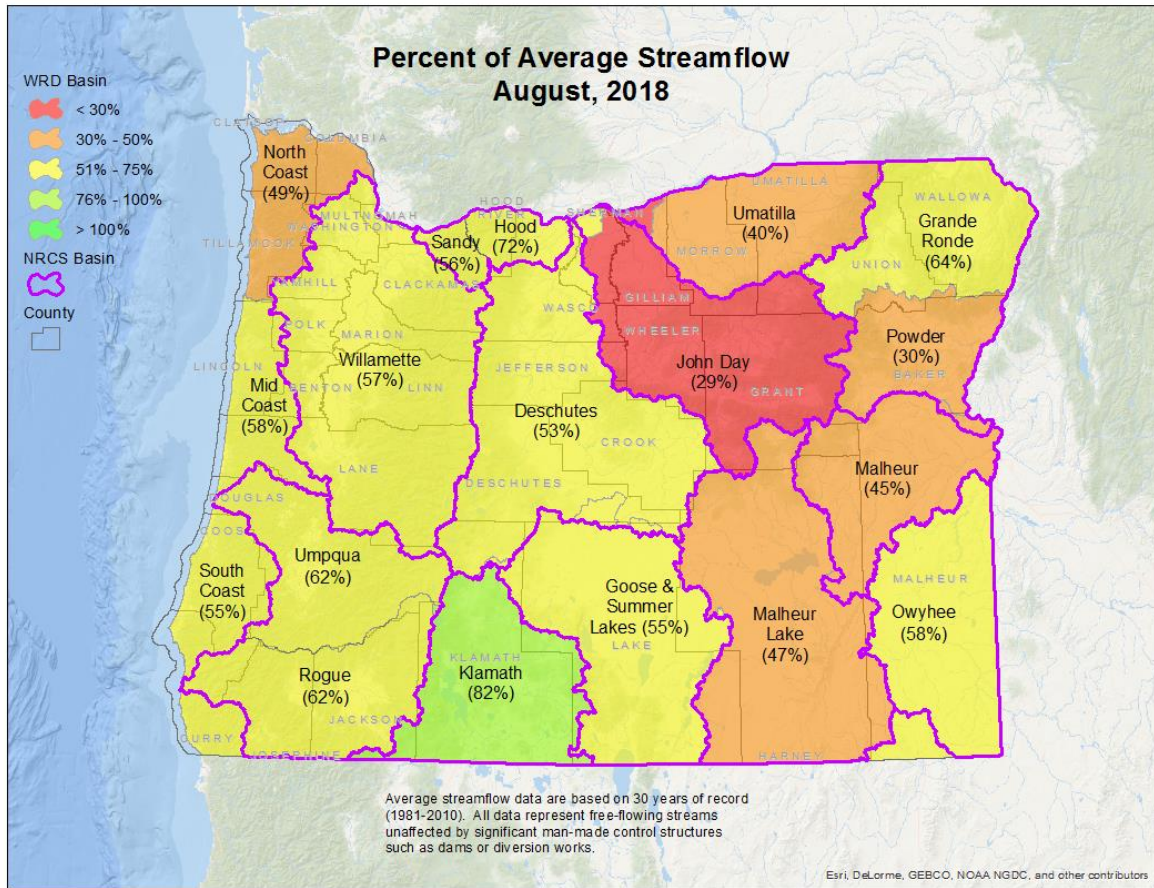
Website: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>



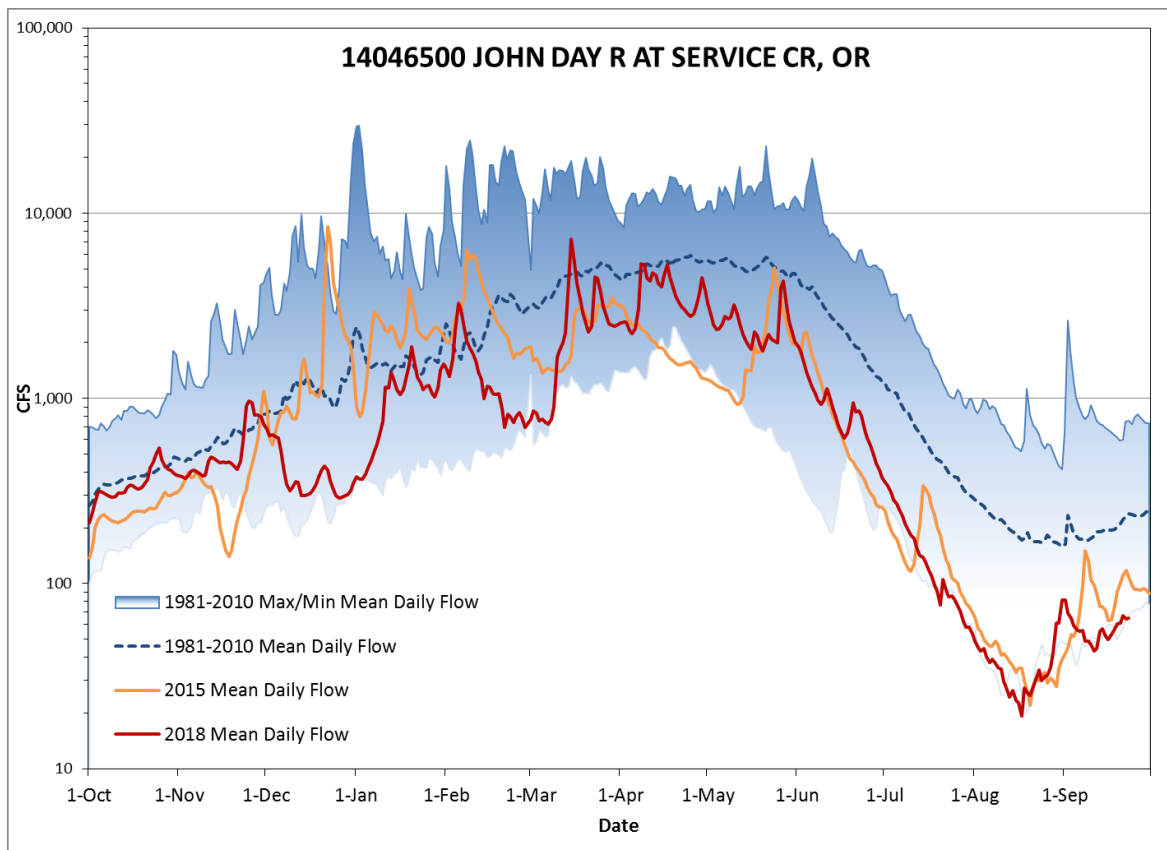
Compared to this time last year:



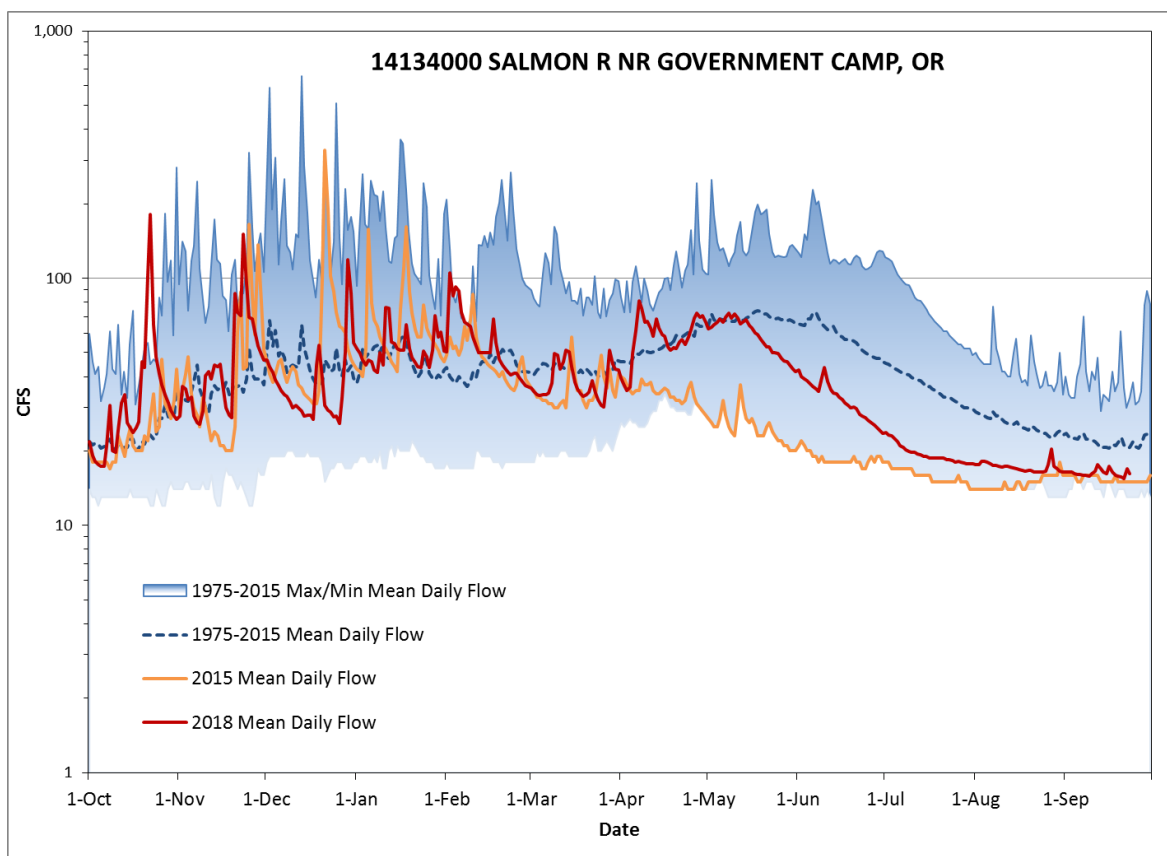
Statewide Streamflow Conditions - August



Streamflow Conditions – John Day



Streamflow Conditions – Sandy



Statewide Reservoir Conditions – August

